

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 7-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,879,227). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to recite, in part, that the sheet material includes "a sheet material having a body portion and a tip portion, said tip portion being separable from said body portion and defining a separate region of said sheet material relative to said body portion, said body portion being provided with a first configuration adapted to be used with a first platent configuration" and having first marking segments, wherein said sheet material is adapted to be separated along said first marking segments to change a configuration of said body portion of said sheet material to correspond with a second differently configured platent. Martin does not disclose these features.

Martin discloses an abrasive sheet 22 having a tip portion 14 removable from the abrasive sheet 22 and rotatable to a new orientation having the same configuration. (Column 3, lines 1-4). The body of Martin is not configurable to accommodate a differently sized platent configuration as disclosed in Claims 1 and 17.

It appears that the Examiner is interpreting the entire "sheet material" of the present application to be a "body portion" and the "tip portion" to be a subset of the

"body portion". Therefore, when the tip portion is removed from the rest of the sheet material, the Examiner alleges that the "body portion" is presumably a new configuration. However, as explained in the specification of the present application and illustrated in the figures, "the large size abrasive sheet 10A includes a body portion 20 and a tip portion 22 separated by segments 24 defining regions of weakened material along which the tip portion 22 is separated from the body portion 20". In other words, the "tip portion" is NOT part of the body portion and is in fact "separate from" the body portion. Accordingly, removal, rotation, or other configurations of the "tip portion" can not be interpreted to equate to a new configuration of the "body portion" as they are already separate and distinct portions.

Hence, any interpretation that leads to a conclusion that changes to the tip portion define a new configuration of the body portion contradicts the clear language and figures of the specification. However, in an attempt to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to state that the body portion and tip portion are separate regions. Therefore, it should be clear that the body portion is configurable to fit different platents. Accordingly, Martin cannot be said to anticipate the invention disclosed in Claims 1 and 17. Further, Claims 7-16 depend from independent Claim 1 and are likewise in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Longstaff et al. in view of Martin et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Claim 1 recites “a body portion” having “segments defining regions of weakened material” and Claim 17 recites “a body portion” having “ first marking segments”, both to be used to configure the body portion to differently sized platents. Additionally, Claim 1 and 17 claim that the tip portion defines a separate region relative to the body portion. Martin and Longstaff fail to disclose these features.

As also noted above, Martin discloses a nose tip 14 having weakened segments in order to change the orientation of the nose tip 14. It does not disclose weakened (per Claim 1) or marked segments (per Claim 17) in its body portion that are configurable for differently sized platents.

Longstaff discloses an abrasive sheet having a nose tip that is movable to different orientations. (Figures 1-3). It does not disclose weakened (per Claim 1) or marked segments (per Claim 17) in its body portion that are configurable for differently sized platents.

Accordingly, Longstaff and Martin fail to render obvious the invention as Claimed in Claims 1 and 17. Further, the remaining claims depend from Claims 1 and 17 and are likewise not rendered obvious by the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

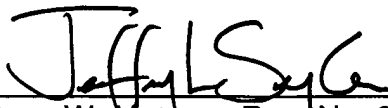
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office

Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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